

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5           1.     In a computer server connected to a plurality of electronic devices via a wireless communication link, a method of commanding said electronic devices to gather geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) selecting a said electronic device;

10           (B) commanding said selected electronic device to capture geographically distributed data;

(C) receiving said captured geographically distributed data; and

(D) storing said received geographically distributed data.

15           2.     A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(E) verifying the identity of selected electronic device.

20           3.     A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(F) crediting value to an account corresponding to selected electronic device.

25           4.     A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(G) requesting current location of said selected electronic device;

(H) receiving said requested current location from said selected electronic device;

(I) skipping further communication with said selected electronic device if said received current location is not within a predetermined geographic area.

5. In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link, a method of collecting geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

- (A) receiving a command to capture said geographically distributed data;
- (B) capturing said geographically distributed data; and
- (C) transmitting said captured geographically distributed data;

6. A method as described in Claim 5, further comprising the step of:  
(D) sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

7. A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said transmitted geographically distributed data is encrypted.

8. In a computer server connected to a plurality of electronic devices via a wireless communication link, a method of collecting geographically distributed user responses comprising the steps of:

(A) selecting a said electronic device, said selected electronic device having a corresponding user;

(B) commanding said selected electronic device to notify said corresponding user that a said user response is requested;

(C) transmitting data to which said corresponding user responds; and

(D) receiving a said user response from said selected electronic device;

and

(E) storing said received user response.

9. A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

(F) verifying the identity of selected electronic device.

10. A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:  
(G) crediting value to an account corresponding to selected electronic device.

5 11. A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:  
(H) requesting current location of said selected electronic device;  
(I) receiving said requested current location from said selected electronic device;

10 (J) skipping further communication with said selected electronic device if  
said received current location is not within a predetermined geographic area.

12. A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:  
(K) commanding said selected electronic device to transmit its location  
when said location is within one of one or more predetermined geographic  
15 areas; and

(L) receiving said transmitted location.

13. In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link,  
said electronic device corresponding to a user, a method of collecting  
20 geographically distributed user responses comprising the steps of:

- (A) receiving a command to solicit response from said user;
- (B) notifying said user that a said user response is requested;
- (C) receiving said user response from said user; and
- (D) transmitting said received user response.

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14. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said electronic device  
is a palm-sized computer system.

15. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

5 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:  
(E) sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

17. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said transmitted user response is encrypted.

10 18. In a computer server connected to a plurality of electronic devices via a wireless communication link, a method for said electronic devices supplying geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

15 (A) receiving said supplied geographically distributed data from at least one of said electronic devices;

(B) storing said received geographically distributed data;

(C) making said stored geographically distributed data accessible to a predetermined set of editors; and

(D) receiving approval to publish from at least one said editor.

20 19. A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

25 20. A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

21. A method as described in Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(E) verifying the identity of said at least one editor.

22. A method as described in Claim 18, further comprising the step of:

(F) crediting value to an account corresponding to said at least one of said  
5 electronic devices.

23. A method as described in Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(G) crediting value to an account corresponding to said at least one editor.

10 24. In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link,  
said electronic device corresponding to a user, a method for said electronic  
devices supplying geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a command from said user to capture data;

(B) capturing said data;

15 (C) transmitting said captured data; and

(D) sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

25 25. A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said electronic device  
is a palm-sized computer system.

20 26. A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said electronic device  
is a wireless telephone.

25 27. A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said transmitted data is  
encrypted.

28. In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link, said electronic device corresponding to a user, a method for said electronic device to gather geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a command from said user to enable said gathering of data;

5 (B) if said enabling is done, determining a plurality of times to start capturing data;

(C) if said enabling is done, capturing said data at each said start time, said capturing being done without intervention from the user;

(D) if said enabling is done, transmitting said captured data; and

10 (E) if said enabling is done, sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

29. A method as described in Claim 28 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

15 30. A method as described in Claim 28 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.